

REMARKS

All of the independent claims have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-32 and 53-55 are presently pending in the application.

Regarding the prior-art rejections, the Final Office Action rejected claims 1-32 and 53-55 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Totakura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,584), Vyarkaram et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,029), Browall et al. (U.S. patent No. 3,874,986), Baars et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,132,668) and Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,068), and rejected claims 6-10, 13 and 14 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Totakura et al., Vyarkarnam et al., Browall et al., Baars et al. and Tang et al. "as applied to claims 1-5, 11, 12, 15-17, 18, 19-32 and 53-55" [sic], and further in view of Lemperle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,391,059), Lemperle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,473), and Mansmann, K. (U.S. Patent No. 6,530,956).

While strongly disagreeing with these rejections, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Timothy E. Betton for the informal Examiner Interview conducted with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on June 25, 2009, at which time it was indicated by Examiner Betton that the independent claims as presently amended would appear to distinguish over the prior art of record subject to approval by his supervisor (presumably Examiner Padmanabhan). It was suggested (without binding authority) that submission of the current Amendment by Applicants likely would result in withdrawal of the outstanding prior-art rejections to the extent the claims reflect the content discussed in the Examiner Interview of June 25, 2009, which they do. Examiner Betton reserved the right to review the case in greater detail, to consult with his supervisor for approval, and to conduct an update search. Accordingly, as a result of the mentioned Examiner Interview, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

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It is submitted that all of the current claims in the subject application distinguish over, and are allowable over, the prior art of record. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any needed fees to Deposit Account 50-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,



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